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Repulpable wax

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of United States Provisional Patent Application, Ser. No.: 60/345,915, filed on 4 January 2002, the contents of which are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a vegetable wax comprising triglycerides. Particularly, the present invention is used as an additive in boxboard coatings and adhesives, either by itself or as part of a composition, to render the coating or adhesive dispersible in warm alkaline water.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Petroleum waxes, such as paraffin and microcrystalline wax, and synthetic waxes such as Fischer Tropsch ("FT") and polyethylene, are used extensively in paper coatings to impart moisture resistance and enhanced moisture vapor barrier properties to the paper. Waxes used for this purpose tend to be low viscosity (<1,000 cps @ 284 degrees F) and have relatively low melting temperatures (<302 degrees F).

Large oil companies such as Shell Oil, ExxonMobil and other oil refiners supply petroleum waxes used in these applications. Most of this wax is derived in the process of refining lube oil where the wax is separated from the lube oil stock and refined into various fractions of wax including paraffins, and microcrystalline waxes. Formulators such as Astor Wax, IGI and Moore & Munger also supply wax for these applications that is either resold as is from the oil companies, and/or formulated and repackaged to meet the specific needs of customers. The two largest suppliers of FT waxes are Sasol from South Africa and Shell Oil from Malaysia. The waxes are sometimes formulated with other ingredients to modify their properties for specific applications. Such modifiers include resins to improve strength and toughness or improve flexibility or gloss.